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December 14, 2020

**VIA ELECTRONIC FILING**

Jocelyn G. Boyd, Esquire  
Chief Clerk & Administrator  
Public Service Commission of South Carolina  
101 Executive Center Drive, Suite 100  
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

RE: Application of Dominion Energy South Carolina, Incorporated for Adjustment of Rates and Charges (\*This filing includes a request for an increase to retail electric rates) (See Commission Order No. 2020-313).  
**Docket No. 2020-125-E**

Dear Ms. Boyd:

The Public Service Commission of South Carolina ("Commission") has scheduled the Dominion Energy South Carolina, Inc. ("DESC") rate case hearing to begin on Tuesday January 5, 2021, and continuing as necessary through Friday, January 15, 2021.<sup>1</sup> Additionally, much of the first day of the hearing has already been reserved for public witnesses.

As of the filing of DESC's rebuttal testimony, there were **37 witnesses** subject to presenting testimony in this proceeding. Seventeen of those witnesses are testifying on behalf of DESC. The complications of having a contested proceeding of this magnitude with this number of witnesses are compounded by the fact the proceeding will be held virtually.

Given the relatively short time window within which to accomplish an important and complicated rate case hearing, the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff ("ORS") believes it may be helpful in this proceeding for the Commission to create a flexible hearing schedule

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<sup>1</sup>See the Second Revised Notice of Filing and Hearing and Prefile Testimony Deadlines, issued by the Commission on August 28, 2020, which says, "PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a virtual hearing, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 103-817 and S.C. Code Ann. §58-27-870, on the above matter has been scheduled to begin on Tuesday, January 05, 2021, at 10:00 a.m., before the Commission for the purpose of receiving testimony and evidence from all interested parties. The hearing may continue through the remainder of the week of January 4, 2021, and the following week, if necessary." (emphasis added).

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outlining when witnesses may be expected to testify, the estimated amount of time expected to be devoted by parties to cross examining each witness, and the order in which parties plan to present their witnesses.

Accordingly, ORS respectfully requests that the Commission consider creating a hearing chart, which is intended to aid the parties as they prepare for this hearing. In an effort to assist the Commission, ORS has created and enclosed a draft chart that the Commission may use. While it is understood that exact precision cannot be achieved, and a degree of flexibility is thus required, it is ORS's hope that this level of organization will help the Commission take into account the body of evidence presented and reach an appropriate decision within the time set-aside for this hearing.

The surrebuttal testimony of ORS and other intervenors is due to be filed on December 17, 2020. As a result, ORS proposes that the Commission require all parties file with the Commission and indicate on the chart their respective expectations no later than Wednesday, December 30, 2020. Through this letter, ORS is not requesting to revise the instructions given by the Commission to all parties in its Second Revised Notice of Filing and Hearing and Prefile Testimony Deadlines issued on August 28, 2020, that stated, “[o]n or before 12/22/2020, please provide the order of witnesses to be presented during the hearing and whether there is an objection to taking direct and rebuttal or surrebuttal testimony together during the hearing.

By e-mail on December 10, 2020, counsel for ORS advised the other parties to this docket of its intention to request that the Commission require all parties file with the Commission and indicate on the chart their respective expectations no later than Wednesday, December 30, 2020. The Southern Alliance for Clean Energy and South Carolina Coastal Conservation League, CMC Steel, South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs, Sierra Club, Department of Defense and all other Federal Executive Agencies, Walmart, Inc., and Frank Knapp, Jr. indicated their agreement with or support for ORS's proposal for a hearing chart. No party has indicated to ORS an objection to the request.

Finally, due to the number of witnesses in this proceeding, and the volume of information that each witness will be presenting to the Commission, ORS would respectfully request that the Commission consider beginning the hearing each day at 9:00 a.m. and ending no earlier than 6:00 p.m.

Sincerely,

*s/ Andrew M. Bateman*

Andrew M. Bateman

cc: All Parties of Record (via e-mail)  
David Butler, Esquire (via e-mail)